

EXHIBIT 58
DATE 1-18-07
HB PW

Governor Brian A Schweitzer
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Bldg., Rm 204
Helena, Montana 59620-0801

Dear Governor Schweitzer:

I write to you as a single parent of an adult child with disabilities. My Daughter Denise has Down Syndrome and been blessed to receive the finest training from her birth to adulthood. The Great Falls Public School system gave her the background and training to become an independent adult whom now holds a job and is an active part in her community. She was truly blessed that the Great Falls District had a transitional program for 18-21 year old students to assist them in living, as independently as possible. Through that program we were introduced to the world of Adult Services, most of which are sponsored by the State Government. These programs, (Easter Seals, Voc Rehab etc) have given my daughter the confidence to trust members of the community, to ride the city bus independently, work out in the city, attend social events and community events with dignity and independence.

Because of these programs, and the quality of the employee's there, I am able to work full time to support my daughter, and myself while she can also enjoy a healthy life style. Every year we are required to face budget cuts. Which of these monumental life style attributes can I tell my daughter will no longer be available to her?

It is my hope that the legislature will fully fund the Disability Services Division Budget for the next year to help pay the employees closer to what they are worth and help new applicants receive benefits. These programs are the basis for my daughters continuing success and growth in life.

Sincerely
JoAnne Almanza

